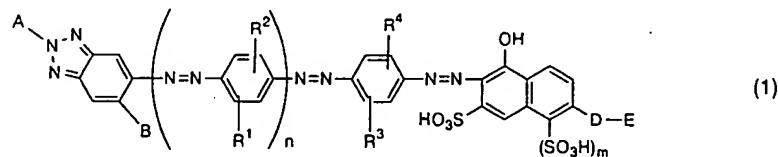
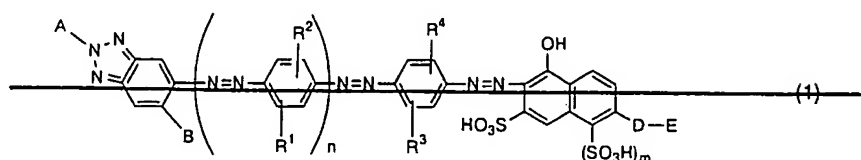


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. An azo compound represented by the following formula (1):



, wherein A denotes a phenyl group having 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid group, amino group, substituted amino groups, lower alkyl groups, lower alkoxy groups, hydroxyl group and carboxyl group, or a naphthyl group which has 1 to 3 sulfonic acid groups as substituents and which may have hydroxyl group, B denotes hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halogen atom or nitro group, each of R^1 to R^4 independently denotes hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or acetylamino group, D denotes

-NHCO-, -N=N- or -NH-, E denotes hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a phenyl group having 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl group, amino group, nitro group, sulfonic acid group, carboxyl group, a lower alkyl group and a lower alkoxy group, n denotes 0 or 1, and m denotes 0 or 1, or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of either of them.

2. (Original) The azo compound as set forth in Claim 1, wherein A is a phenyl group having 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid group, methyl group, methoxy group, hydroxyl group and carboxyl group, or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of either of them.

3. (Original) The azo compound as set forth in Claim 1, wherein A is a phenyl group having as substituents 1 to 2 sulfonic acid groups, carboxyl groups, hydroxyl groups or C₁ to C₅ alkyl groups, or a naphthyl group having sulfonic acid group, B is hydrogen atom, sulfonic acid group, a C₁ to C₄ alkyl group or a C₁ to C₄ alkoxy group, R¹ is a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₅ alkoxy group or acetyl amino group,

R² is hydrogen atom, a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group or a C₁ to C₅ alkoxy group, R³ is a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group or a C₁ to C₅ alkoxy group, R⁴ is hydrogen atom, a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group or a C₁ to C₅ alkoxy group, D is -NHCO-, -N=N- or -NH-, and E is a phenyl group which may be substituted with amino group or hydroxyl group, or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of either of them.

4. (Original) The azo compound as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

A is a phenyl group having as substituents sulfonic acid group and/or carboxyl group, B is sulfonic acid group, R^1 is methyl group, R^2 is hydrogen atom, R^3 is methyl group, R^4 is methyl group or methoxy group, D is $-NHCO-$ or $-N=N-$, and E is a phenyl group which may be substituted with amino group or hydroxyl group, or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of either of them.

5. (Original) A dye type polarizing film containing in a polarizing film base material the azo compound as set forth in Claim 1, or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of either of them.

6. (Original) A dye type polarizing film containing in a polarizing film base material the azo compound as set forth in Claim 1, or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of either of them, and at least one kind of an organic dye other than these compounds.

7. (Original) The dye type polarizing film as set forth in Claim 5 or 6, wherein the polarizing film base material is a film comprising a polyvinyl alcohol type resin.

8. (Original) The dye type polarizing film as set forth in any one of Claims 5-7, which is used for a liquid crystal projector.

9. (Original) A polarizing plate comprising the dye type polarizing film as set forth in any one of Claims 5-8.